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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/677,230	10/03/2003	Keisuke Fukushima	2003_1350A	8607
513	7590	06/07/2004	EXAMINER	
WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, L.L.P.			BOSWELL, CHRISTOPHER J	
2033 K STREET N. W.				
SUITE 800			ART UNIT	
WASHINGTON, DC 20006-1021			PAPER NUMBER	
			3676	

DATE MAILED: 06/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/677,230

Applicant(s)

FUKUSHIMA, KEISUKE

Examiner

Christopher Boswell

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/3/2003.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,233,986 to Suzuki et al.

Suzuki discloses a electrically-operated steering lock device having a lock shaft (14) which is movable between a protrusion position where a steering shaft (9) is locked and a retreat position where the steering shaft is unlocked, and lock shaft moving means (34) coupled to an electric motor (18) and serving for moving the lock shaft, the electrically-operated steering lock device further comprising, protrusion blocking means (45) which is electrically driven and which, when the lock shaft is placed at a retreat position, engages with an engagement portion (14b) formed in the lock shaft to block protrusion of the lock shaft, and holding means (column 7, lines 21-36) for holding the protrusion blocking means to a position where protrusion of the lock shaft is blocked, as in claim 1.

Suzuki also discloses the lock shaft moving means comprises a spring (17) for biasing the lock shaft to a protrusion position, and an electrically-operated member (23) which is to be engaged with an engagement recessed portion (column 5, lines 19-29) formed in the lock shaft to move the lock shaft to the retreat position, as in claim 2, as well as the protrusion blocking means

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is a solenoid (column 11, lines 9-12) having a plunger (45a) which is to be engaged with the engagement portion formed in the lock shaft, as in claim 3.

Suzuki further discloses the lock shaft moving means enables the lock shaft to move to the protrusion position when the electric motor rotated forward (column 7, lines 49-59), and enables the lock shaft move to the retreat position when the electric motor is rotated reverse (column 8, lines 45-49), and the holding means is the engagement portion formed in the lock shaft, and wherein, in a state that the engagement with the engagement portion has been released by reverse rotation of the electric motor, the lock shaft is allowed to protrude by forward rotation of the electric motor (column 8, lines 50-61), as in claim 4.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following patents are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to electrically actuated steering column locks:

U.S. Patent Number 6,543,262 to Limburg et al., U.S. Patent Number 6,234,039 to Garnault et al., U.S. Patent Number 6,053,067 to Garnault et al., U.S. Patent Number 4,984,481 to Jawdoszyn, U.S. Patent Number 3,673,829 to Mizuno, U.S. Patent Number 3,400,563 to Lempke et al., U.S. Patent Number 2,616,274 to Landrum.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher Boswell whose telephone number is (703) 305-4067.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 5:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (703) 308-2686. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



CJB
May 18, 2004

DANIEL P. STODOLA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600